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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council continues consultations on draft text on enforcement of "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina; Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) asserts its airplanes and helicopters "have not violated airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina" since last October.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti arrives in Port-au-Prince to meet with representatives of different sectors of society in pursuit of settlement of political conflict in that country.

+ Secretary-General expresses "distress" over killing of humanitarian relief worker in northern Iraq.

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The Security Council continued its consultations today on a draft text concerning the enforcement of the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meanwhile, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has declared that no airplanes and helicopters of the Air Forces of the Army of Yugoslavia have violated the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina since the "no-fly zone" came into effect in October last year.

The Government, in a statement issued at Headquarters, referred to a Presidential statement adopted by the Security Council on 13 March demanding that the Serbian side provide an immediate explanation of the violations of the "no-fly zone". It said that due to such a "one-sided approach" in evaluating the situation, the "Muslim and Croat side has been forthwith freed of any responsibility".

The statement went on to recall that the highest officials of the Federal Republic had proposed that military observers be deployed at the airfields in its territory in order to dispel "false and unscrupulous accusations of the alleged use of the Yugoslav Air Force in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina". It was therefore "surprising" that the Secretary-General would be asked to ensure that an investigation is conducted about the reported possible use of

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the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to launch air attacks against Bosnia and Herzegovina, the statement said.

In a related development, the Bosnian peace talks continued at Headquarters today under the chairmanship of Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. The two Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference met this morning with the Bosnian Croat leader, Mate Boban, and the Bosnian Prime Minister. The subject of that meeting was the interim arrangements for a constitution for Bosnia and Herzegovina. They also discussed the status of Sarajevo.

The Co-Chairmen also met this afternoon with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A second meeting was scheduled for tonight at Headquarters.

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Dante Caputo, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti, arrived yesterday in Port-Au-Prince to begin an open-ended visit to that country. He is scheduled to meet with representatives of a broad range of sectors of the Haitian society in the pursuit of a solution to the political crisis in that country.

At the beginning of February, agreement was reached with the parties concerned, including the Organization of American States (OAS) and senior United Nations officials, to send a joint United Nations/OAS International Civilian Mission to Haiti to monitor the human rights situation and initiate investigations of human rights violations. The deployment of observers began in mid-March.

According to the spokesman for the Mission, Mr. Caputo met this morning with the Prime Minister of the de facto government in Haiti, Marc Bazin, and was expected to meet later with General Raoul Cedras and other members of the Haitian Armed Forces.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has deplored the killing yesterday of Vincent Tollet of Belgium, an international staff member of the non-governmental organization known as Handicap International, by unidentified assailants in the area of Suleimaniyah in northern Iraq.

According to a statement issued at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General was "distressed" by the incident which once again illustrated the security risks for those engaged in providing humanitarian assistance in areas of "tension". The incident was being investigated by local authorities, he said.

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